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Berners. A treatyse of Fysshynge  
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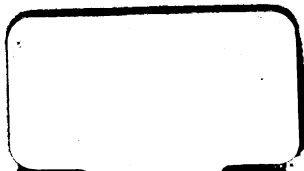


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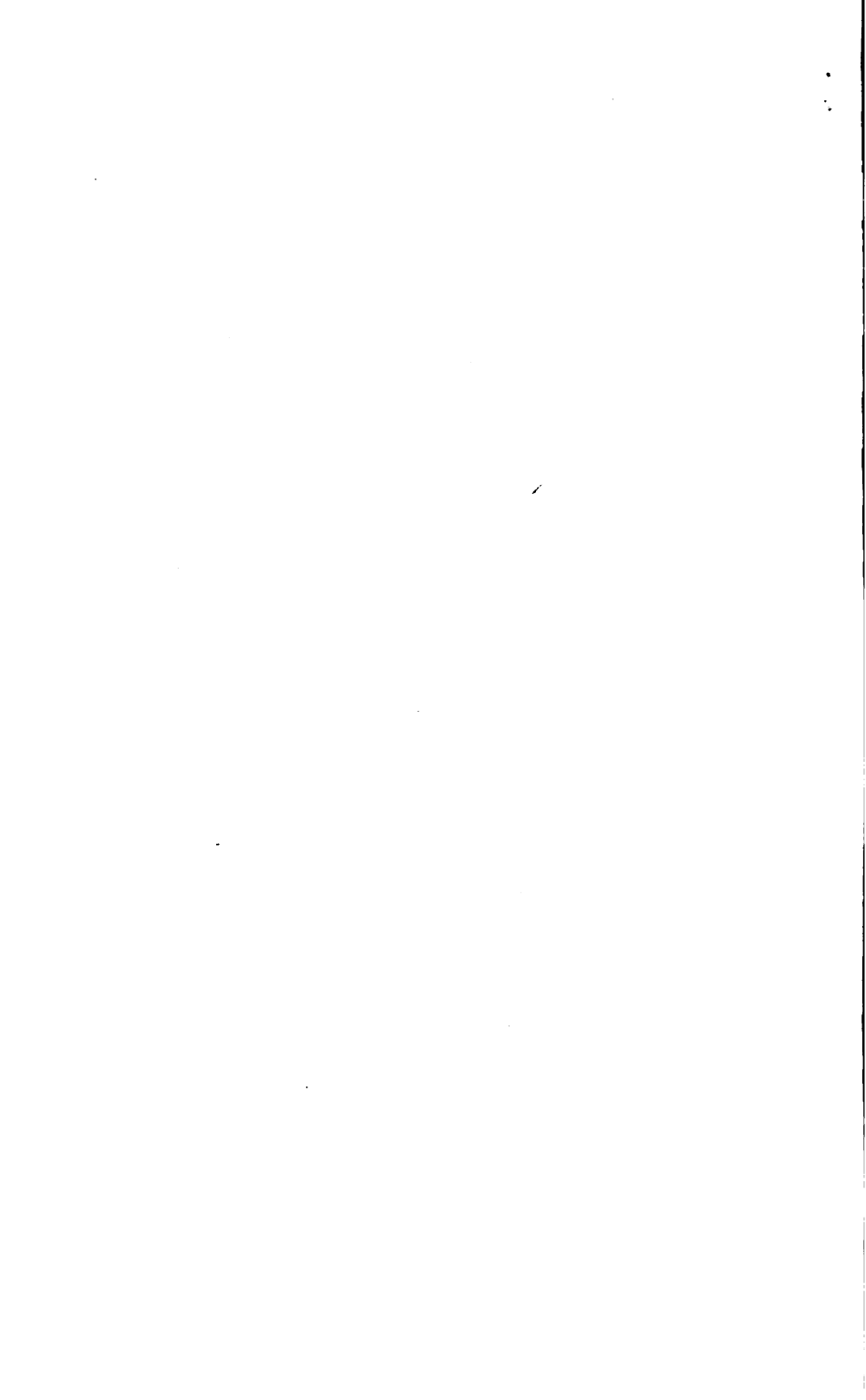
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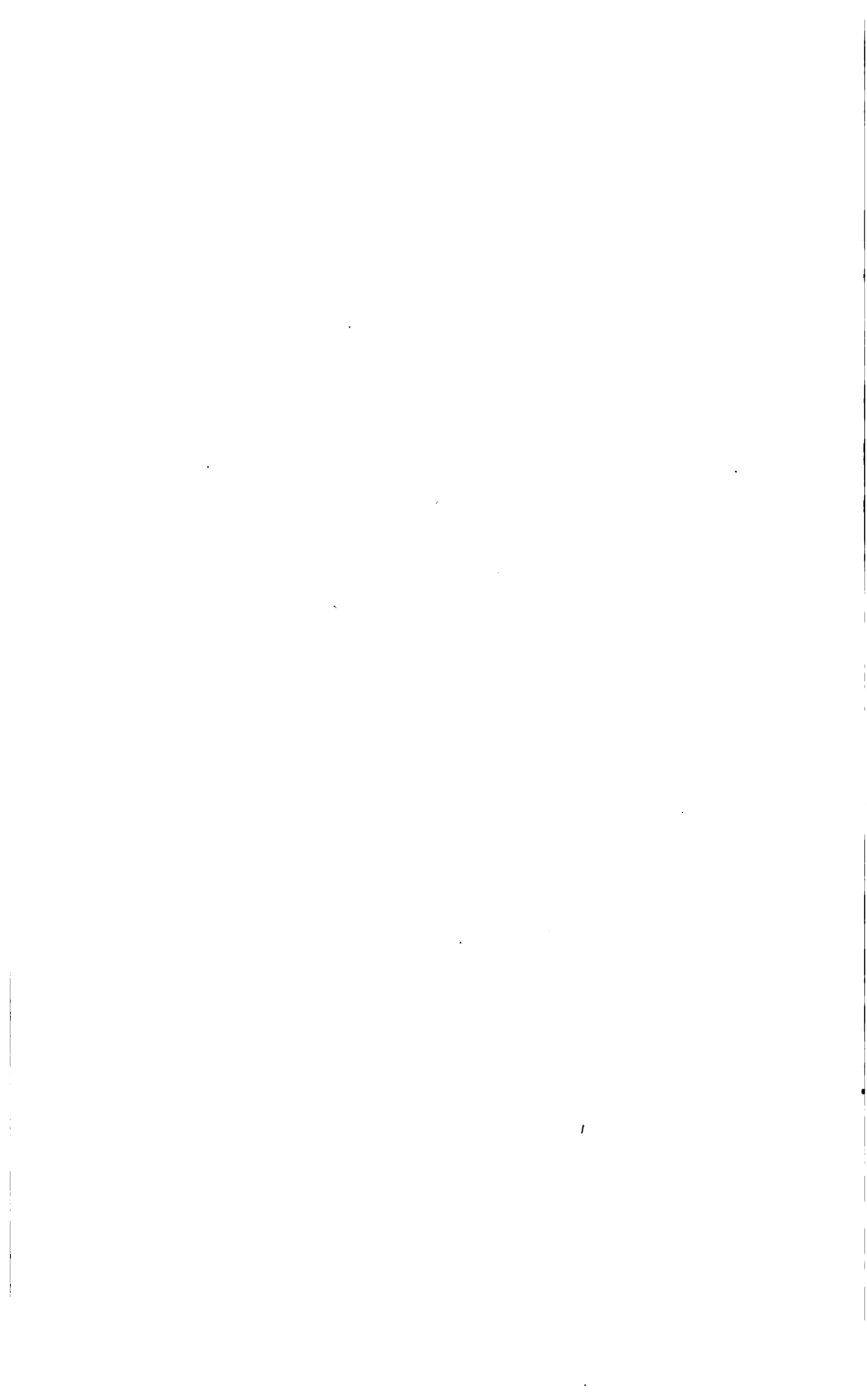






A Treatyse of Fysshynge  
with an Angle.





Bibliotheca Curiosa.

A

**Treatyse of Fysshynge  
wyth an Angle,**

BY

**DAME JULIANA BERNERS.**

*Originally Printed by Wynkyn de Worde  
in 1496.*

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**Edited by**

**"PISCATOR."**

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PRIVATELY PRINTED, EDINBURGH.

1885.



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*This edition is limited to 275 small-paper copies,  
and 75 large-paper copies.*

## Introduction.



THE Work here reprinted is universally regarded as being the first English book on Angling, and must, therefore, ever be interesting, not only to the brethren of the gentle craft, but also to the lover of our old English literature, even though he has never cast a fly, or so much as watched a float.

An excellent Bibliographical notice of the work has appeared in the Library Chronicle, from the pen of Mr. WILLIAM E. A. AXON, and to it I am indebted for the following particulars.

The supposed authoress was a lady named Juliana Barnes or Berners, born towards the end of the fourteenth century at Roding-Berners, in the Hundred of Dunmow, Essex. Her father was Sir James Berners, who was beheaded in 1388, as one of the evil advisers of Richard II. She is said to have been Prioress of Sopwell Nunnery in Hertfordshire, a dependancy of the Abbey of St. Albans. To this nun is attributed the "Book of St. Albans," the earliest sporting work in the language! As Mr. Axon says, "she may have gained the experience that would furnish material for her writings before she took the veil." The book obtains its name from having been printed at St. Albans in 1486 by that

unknown printer, who is generally styled "The Schoolmaster of St. Albans." It is divided into three parts: the first part treats of Hawking, the second of Hunting, and the third of Coat-armour. In 1496, Wynkyn de Worde issued a second edition of "The Book of St. Albans," adding a fourth part, the "Treatyse of Fysshynge."

The claim of Juliana Berners to the authorship of the first part rests principally on the closing lines of the discourse on Hunting, which ends thus:—

Your playe for to wynne or that you come inne,  
Explicit Dam Julyans Barnes in her boke of  
Huntyng.

As regards the Treatyse of Fysshynge, the evidence is more shadowy still; it rests, according to Mr. Van Siclen,\* on the ungallant hypothesis that only a woman could have given such directions for making a rod, and that no man could have been guilty of so "delightful a *non sequitur* in many of the arguments."

Those interested in early Angling Literature should compare the instructions given by Dame Berners with those of John Davies, in his "Secrets of Angling," originally printed in 1613. See "Bibliotheca Curiosa," No. 43.)

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\* Who edited an American reprint in 1875, 12mo.

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| 1. *Westminster,<br>1496.  | Emprynted by Wynkyn de Worde.<br>Fo. <b>Black Letter</b> .  |
| 2. †London<br>(no date).   | Imprynted . . . by Wynkyn<br>de Worde. pp. 92. 4to. <b>Black<br/>Letter</b> .   |
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| 5. §London<br>(no date).   | <i>First Part</i> , Imprynted . . . by Ro-<br>bert Foye. Parts 2 and 3, Im-<br>prynted . . . by Wylliam Cop-<br>lande. pp. 96. 4to. <b>Bl. Let.</b> |
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| 7.    London<br>(no date). | Imprynted .. by Wylliam Powell.<br>pp. 96. 4to. <b>Black Letter</b> .   |
| 8. Lond. (no date).        | Imprynted . . . by Ab. Vele.  |
| 9. London, 1586.           | Printed by Edward Allde. pp. 88.<br>4to. <b>Black Letter</b> .  |

\* Copies on vellum are in the Pembroke and Grenville collections, and on paper in the British Museum and Bodleian libraries.—Sold: White Knights, £60, 18s.; Haworth, £39, 18s.

† The only copy known is in the Huth Library.

‡ Each Part has a distinct colophon.

§ Sold, Dent, £10. 10s.

|| Sold, Haworth, £7, 5s.—Editions by Copland in 1548, 1551, 1553, 1554, 1561, 1568, and 1569; by

10. | London, 1614. | Entitled "A jewell for Gentrie."  
 11. | London, 1810. | Edited by Haslewood. 8vo.

(b.) *As a separate Pamphlet.*

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| 1. *London<br>(no date). | Imprynted . . . by Wynkyn de<br>Worde. 4to. <b>Bl. Let.</b>   |
| 2. London, 1590.         | Printed by John Wolfe. 4to.                                   |
| 3. London, 1596.         | Printed by John Wolfe. 4to.                                   |
| 4. London, 1600.         | Printed by John Wolfe. 4to.                                   |
| 5. London, 1606.         | Printed by John Wolfe. 4to.                                   |
| 6. London, 1827.         | Printed by Baskerville. 8vo.                                  |
| 7. London, 1880.         | Edited by Rev. M. G. Watkins.<br>Reprinted in facsimile. 4to. |
| 8. †London, 1883.        | With Preface and Glossary, by<br>William Satchell, 4to.       |
| 9. Edinburgh, 1885.      | The present edition. 8vo.                                     |

Henry Tab (no date); by John Waley in 1546 and 1586; and by Powell in 1547, 1550, 1567.

\* Signatures A to P iiiij.

† Only 200 copies printed.—An older form of the *Treatyse*, from an MS. belonging to Alfred Denison, Esq., was issued, under the same date, by Mr. Satchell.





**Here begynnnyth the treatyse  
of fysshynge wyth  
an Angle.**



**S**ALAMON in his parablys sayth that a good spyryte makyth a flourynge aege, that is a fayre aege and a longe. And syth it is soo: I aske this questyon. Whiche ben the meanes and the causes that enduce a man into a mery spyryte: Truly to my beste dyscrecion it semeth good dysportes and honest gamys in whom a man Ioyeth wythout ony repentannce after. Thenne folowyth it y<sup>e</sup> gode dysportes and honest games ben cause of mannys fayr aege and longe life. And therefore now woll I chose of foure good dysportes and honeste gamys, that is to wyte: of huntynge: hawkynge: fysshynge: and foulynge. The beste

to my symple dyscrecion why then is fysshynge: callyd Anglynge wyth a rodde: and a lyne and an hoke, And therof to treate as my symple wytte may suffice: both for the sayd reason of Salamon and also for the reason that phisyk makyth in this wyse (*Si tibi deficiant medici medice tibi fiant: hæc tria mens leta labor et moderata dieta*).

Ye shall vnderstande that this is for to saye, Yf a man lacke leche or medicyne he shall make thre thynges his leche and medycyne: and he shall nede neuer no moo. The fyrste of theym is a mery thought. The second is labour not outraged. The thyrde is dyete mesurable. Fyrste that yf a man wyll euer more be in mery thoughtes and haue a gladde spyryte: he must eschewe all contraryous company and all places of debate where he myghte haue any occasyons of malencoly. And yf he woll haue a labour not outrageous he muste thenne ordeyne him to his hertys ease and pleasaunce wythout studye pensyfnesse or traueyle a mery occupacyon whyche may reioyce his herte: and in whyche his spyrytes may haue a mery delyte. And yf he woll be dyetyd mesurably he must eschewe all places of ryotte whyche is cause of surfette and of syknesse, And he must drawe him to places of swete ayre and hungry: And ete nourishable meetes and dyffyable also.

NOW thenne woll I descryue the sayd dysportes and gamys to finde the beste of theym as veryly as I can, alle be it that the ryght noble and full worthy prynce the duke of Yorke late callid mayster of game hath discryued the myrthes of huntynge lyke as I thynke to discryue of it and of alle the other. For huntynge as to myn entent is to laboryous, For the hunter must alwaye renne and folowe his houndes: traueyllynge and swetyng full sore. He blowyth tyll his lyppes blyster And whan he wenyth it be an hare full oft it is an hegge hogge. Thus he chasyth and wote not what. He comyth home at euyn rayn beten pryckyd: and his clothes torn wete shode all myry. Some hounde loste: some surbat. Suche greues and many other hapyth vnto the hunter, whyche for dyspleysaunce of theym y<sup>t</sup> loue it I dare not reporte. Thus truly me semyth that this is not the beste dysporte and game of the sayd foure. The dysporte and game of hawkyng is laboryous and noyouse also as me semyth. For often the fawkenner loseth his hawkes as the hunter his houndes. Thenne is his game and his dysporte goon. Full often cryeth he and whystelyth tyll that he be ryght euyll a thurste. His hawke taketh a bowe and lyste not ones on hym rewarde, whan he wolde haue her for to flee: thenne woll she bathe. with mys fedyng she shall haue the Fronse: the Rye: the Cray and many other



syknesses that brynge theym to the Sowse. Thus by prouff this is not the beste dysporte and game of the sayd foure. The dysporte and game of fowlynge me semyth moost symple. For in the wynter season the fowler spedyth not but in the moost hardest and coldest weder: whyche is greuous: For whan he wolde goo to his gynnes he may not for colde. Many a gynne and many a snare he makyth. Yet sorryly dooth he fare. At morn tyde in the dewe he is weete shode vnto his taylle. Many other suche I could tell: but drede of magre makith me for to leue. Thus me semeth that huntynge and hawkyng and also fowlynge ben so laborous and greuous that none of theym maye perfourme nor bi very meane that enduce a man to a mery spyryte: whyche is cause of his longe lyfe acordynge unto y<sup>e</sup> sayd parable of Salamon. Dowteles thenne foloweth it that it must nedes be the dysporte of fysshynge wyth an angle. For all other manere of fysshynge is also laborous and greuous: often makynge folkes ful wete and colde, whyche many tymes hath been cause of grete Infirmytees. But the angler may have no colde nor no dysease nor angre, but yf he be causer hymself. For he maye not lese at the moost but a lyne or an hoke: of whiche he maye haue store plentie of his owne makynge, as this symple treatyse shall teche hym. Soo thenne his losse is not greuous, and other greyffes maye he

not haue, sauynge but yf ony fische breke away after that he is take on the hoke ; or elles that he catche nought : whyche ben not greuous. For yf he faylle of one he maye not faylle of a nother, yf he dooth as this treatyse techyth ; but yf there be nought in the water. And yet atte the leest he hath his holsom walk and mery at his ease. a swete ayre of the swete sauoure of the meede floures : that makyth hym hungry. He hereth the melodyous armony of fowles. He seeth the yonge swannes : heerons : duckes : cotes and many other foules wyth theyr brodes. whyche me semyth better than alle the noyse of houndys : the blastes of hornys and the scrye of foulis that hunters : fawkeners and fowlers can make. And yf the angler take fysshe : surely thenne is there noo man merier than he is in his spyryte. Also who soo woll vse the game of anglynge : he must ryse erly. whiche thyng is prouffitable to man in this wyse: That is to wyte : moost to the heele of his soule. For it shall cause hym to be holy. and to the heele of his body. For it shall cause hym to be hole. Also to the encrease of his goodys. For it shall make hym ryche. As the olde englysshe prouerbe sayth in this wyse. (who so woll ryse erly shall be holy helthy and zely.) Thus haue I prouyd in myn entent that the dysporte and game of anglynge is the very meane and cause that enducith a man in to a mery spyryte. Whyche after the

sayde parable of Salomon and the sayd doctryne of phisyk makyth a flouryng aegge and a longe. And therefore to al you that ben vertuous : gentyll : and free borne I wryte and make this symple treatyse folowyng : by whyche ye may haue the full crafte of anglynge to dysport you at your luste : to the entent that your aegge maye the more floure and the more lenger to endure.

**Y**F ye woll be crafty in anglynge: ye must fyrst lerne to make your harnays. That is to wyte your rodde: your lynes of dyuers colours. After that ye must know how ye shall angle in what place of the water : how depe : and what time of day. For what manere of fysshe: in what wedyr How many impedymentes there ben in fysshynge yt is callyd anglynge And in specyall wyth what baytys to euery dyuers fysshe in eche moneth of the yere. How ye shall make your baytes brede where ye shall fynde theym: and how ye shall kepe theym. And for the moost crafty thyng how ye shall make youre hokes of stele and of osmonde, Some for the dubbe; and some for the flote : and the grounde, as ye shall here after al thyse fynde expressed openly vnto your knowlege. And how ye shall make your rodde craftly here I shall teche you. Ye shall kytte betwene

Myghelmas and Candylmas a fayr staffe of a fadom and a halfe longe: and arme grete of hasyll: wylowe; or aspe. And bethe hym in an hote owyn: and sette hym euyn. Thenne lete hym cole and drye a moneth. Take thenne and frette hym faste wyth a cockeshotecorde: and bynde hym to a fourme or an euyn square grete tree. Take thenne a plummers wire that is euyn and streyte and sharpe at the one ende. And hete the sharpe ende in a charcole fyre tyll it be whyte: and brenne the staffe therwyth thorough: euer streyte in the pythe at bothe endes tyll they mete. And after that brenne hym in the nether ende wyth a byrde broche, and wyth other broches eche gretter than other. and euer the grettest the laste: so that ye make your hole aye tapre were. Thenne lete hym lye still and kele two dayes. Vnfrette hym thenne and lete hym drye in an hous roof in the smoke tyll he be through drye. In the same season take a fayr yerde of grene hasyll and beth hym euyn rnd streyghte. and lete it drye with the staffe. And whan they ben drye make the yerde mete vnto the hole in the staffe: vnto halfe the length of the staffe. And to perfourme that other halfe of the croppe. Take a fayr shote of blacke thornn: crabbe tree: medeler. or of Ienypre kytte in the same season: and well bethyd and streyghte. And frette theym togyder fetely: soo that the croppe maye iustly

entre all in to the sayd hole. Thenne shaue your staffe wexe. Thenne vyrell the staffe at bothe endes wyth longe hopis of yren or laton in the clenest wyse wyth a pike in the nether ende fastnyd wyth a rennyng vyce : to take in and out your croppe. Thenne set your croppe an handfull within the ouer ende of your staffe in suche wise that it be as bigge there as in any other place aboue. Thenne arme your croppe at thouer ende downe to y<sup>e</sup> frette wyth a lyne of. vj. heeres. And dubbe the lyne and frette it fast in y<sup>e</sup> toppe wyth a bowe to fasten on your lyne. And thus shall ye make you a rodde soo preuy that ye maye walke therwyth : and there shall noo man wyte where abowte yee goo. It wolle be lyghte and full nymbyll to fysshe with at your luste. And for the more redynesse loohere a fygure therof in example : \*

**A**FTER that ye haue made thus your rodde : ye must lerne to coloure your lynes of here in this wyse. Firste ye must take of a whyte horse taylle the lengest heere and fayrest that ye can finde. And euer the rounder it be the better it is. Departe it in to. vj. partes : and euery parte ye

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\* In the original here follows a rude diagram representing a rod.

shall colour by hymselfe in dyuers colours. As yelowe: grene: browne: tawney: russet: and duske colours. And for to make a good grene colour on your heer ye shall doo thus. Take small ale a quarte and put it in a lytyll panne: and put therto halfe a pounce of alym. And put therto your heer: and lete it boyle softly half an houre. Thenne take out your heer: and let it drye. Thenne take a potell of water and put it in a panne. And put therin two handfull of coldys or of wyxen. And presse it wyth a tyle stone: and lete it boyle softly half an houre. And whan it is yelow on the scume put therin your heer wyth halfe a pounce of coparose betyn in powdre and lete it boyle halfe a myle waye: and thenne sette it downe: and lete it kele fyue or fyxe houres. Thenne take out the heer and drye it. And it is thenne the fynest grene that is for the water. And euer the more ye put therto of coparose the better it is. or elles in stede of it vertgrees.

A nother wyse ye maye make more bryghter grene, as thus sete woode your heer in an woodefatte a lyght plunket colour. And thenne sethe hym in olde or wyxin lyke as I haue sayd sauynge ye shall not put therto neyther coporose ne vertgrees.

For to make your heer yelow dyght it wyth alym as I haue sayd before. And after that wyth oldys or wyxin wythout coporose or vertgrees. A nother yelow ye shall make thus. Take smalle

ale a potell: and stampe thre handful of walnot leues and put togider: And put in your heer tyll that it be as depe as ye woll haue it. For to make russet heer. Take stronge lye a pynt and halfe a pounce of sote and a lytyl iuce of walnot leuys and a quarte of alym: and put theym alle togydder in a panne and boylle theym well. And whan it is colde put in youre heer tyll it be as derke as ye woll haue it. For to make a browne colour. Take a pounce of sote and a quarte of ale: and seth it wyth as many walnot leuys as ye maye. And whan they wexe blacke sette it from the fire. And put therin your heer and lete it lye styll tyll it be as browne as ye woll haue it.

For to make a nother browne. Take strong ale and sote and tempre them togyder. and put therin your heer two dayes and two nyghtes and it shall be ryght a good colour.

For to make a tawney colour. Take lyme and water and put theym togyder: and also put your heer therin foure or fyue houres. Thenne take it out and put it in a Tanners ose a day: and it shall be also fyne a tawney colour as nedyth to our purpoos. The syrte parte of your heer ye shall kepe styll whyte for lynes for the dubbyd hoke to fysshe for the tought and graylynge and for smalle lynes for to trye for the roche and the darse.

**W**HAN your heer is thus colourid: ye must knowe for whiche waters and for whyche seasons they shall serue.

The grene colour in all clere water from Apryll tyll Septembre. The yelow colour in euery clere water from Septembre tyll Nouembre: For is is lyke y<sup>e</sup> wedys and other manere grasse which growyth in the waters and ryuers whan they ben broken. The russet colour seruyth all the wynter vnto the ende of Apryll, as well in ryuers as in poles or lakys. The browne colour seruyth for that water that is blacke dedisse in ryuers or in other waters. The tawney colour for those waters that ben hethy or morysshe.

**N**OW must ye make youre lynes in this wyse. Fyrste loke that ye haue an Instrument lyke vnto this fygure portrayed folowyng. Thenne take your heer and kytte of the smalle ende an hondfull large or more, For it is neyther stronge nor yet sure. Thenne torne the toppe to the taylle eueryche ylyke moche. And departe it into thre partyes. Thenne knytte euery part at the one ende by hymself. And at the other ende knytte till thre togyder: and put y<sup>e</sup> same ende in that other ende of your Instrument that hath but one clyft. And sett that other ende faste wyth the wegge foure fyngers in alle shorter than your heer. Thenne twyne euery warpe one waye and



ylyke moche: and fasten theym in thre clystes ylyke streyghte. Take thenne out that other ende and twyne it that waye that it woll desyre ynough. Thenne streyne it a lytyll: and knytte it for ondoynge: and that is good. And for to knowe to make your Instrument: loo here it is in fygure. And it shall be made of tree sauynge the bolte vnderneath: whiche shall be of yren.\*

**W**HAN ye haue as many of the lynkys as ye suppose wol suffice for the length of a lyne: then must ye knytte theym togyder wyth a water knotte or elles a duchys knotte. And whan your knotte is knytte: kytte of y<sup>e</sup> voyde shorte endes a strawe brede from the knotte. Thus shal ye make youre lynes fayr and fyne: and also ryght sure for ony manere fyssh. And by cause that ye sholde knowe bothe the water knotte and also the duchys knotte: loo theym here in fygure caste vnto the lyknesse of the draughte.

**Y**E shall vnderstonde that the moost subtyll and hardyste crafte in makynge of your barnays is for to make your hokis. For whoos makynge ye must haue fete fyles, thynn and sharpe and smalle beten: A semy clamm of yren: a bender

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\* In the original here follows a rude diagram.

a payr of longe and smalle tongys : an harde knyfe somdeale thicke: an anuelde: and a lytyll hamour. And for smalle fysshe ye shall make your hokes of the smallest quarell nedlys that ye can fynde of stele, and in this wyse. Ye shall put the quarell in a redde charkcoleyre tyll that it be of the same colour that the fyre is. Thenne take hym out and lete hym kele : and ye shal fynde him well alayd for to fyle. Thenne reyse the herde wyth your knyfe, and make the poynt sharpe. Thenne alaye hym agayn : for elles he woll breke in the bendyng. Thenne bende hym lyke to the bende fygyrd hereafter in example. And gretter hokes ye shall make in the same wyse of gretter nedles : as broderers nedlis : or taylers : or shomakers nedlis spere poyntes and of shomakers nalles in especyall the beste for grete fysshe. and that they bende atte the poynt whan they ben assayed, for elles they ben not good. Whan the hoke is bendyd bete the hynder ende abrode : and fyle it smothe for fretynge of thy lyne. Thenne sodaynly quenche it in water : and it woll be harde and stronge. And for to haue knowlege of your Instrumentes : lo theym here in fygyre portrayd.\*

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\* In the original here follow rude diagrams representing hooks.

**W**HAN ye haue made thus your hokis: thenne must ye set theym on your lynes acordynge in gretnesse and strength in this wyse. Ye shal take smalle redde silke. and yf it be for a grete hoke thenne double it: not twynyd. And elles for small hokys lete it be syngle: and therwyth frette thycke the lyne there as the one ende of your hoke shal sytte a strawe brede. Thenne sette there your hoke: and frette hym wyth the same threde y<sup>e</sup> two partes of the lengthe that shall be frette in all. And whan ye come to the thyrde parte thenne torne the ende of your lyne agayn vpon the frette double. and frette it so double that other thyrde part. Thenne put your threde in at the hose twys or thries and let it goo at eche tyme rounde abowte the yerde of your hoke. Thenne wete the hose and drawe it tyll that it be faste. And loke that your lyne lye euermore wythin your hokys: and not without. Thenne kytte of the lynys ende and the threde as nyghe as ye maye: sauyng the frette.

**N**OW ye knowe wyth how grete hokys ye shall angle to euery fysshe; now I woll tell you wyth how many heeres ye shall to euery manere of fysshe. For the menow wyth a lyne of one heere. For the waxyng roche. the blecke and the gogyn and the ruffe wyth a lyne of two heeris. For the darse and the grete roche with a lyne of thre

heeres. For the perche: the flounder and bremet with foure heeres. For the cheuen chubbe: the breme, the tenche and the ele wyth. vj heeres. For the trougte: graylynge: barbyll and the grete chewyn wyth. ix. heeres. For the grete trougte wyth. xii. heeres. For the samon wyth. xv. heeres. And for the pyke wyth a chalke lyne made browne with your browne colour aforsayd: arrayd with a wyre. as ye shall here hereafter whan I speke of the pyke.

Your lynes must be plumbid wyth lede. And ye shall wyte y<sup>t</sup> the nexte plumbe vnto the hoke shall be therfro a large fote and more. And every plumbe of a quantyte to the gretnes of the lyne. There be thre manere of plumbis for a grounde lyne rennyng. And for the flote set upon the grounde lyne lyenge. x. plumbes joynynge all togider to the grounde lyne rennyng. ix or x. smalle. The flote plumbe shall be so heuy y<sup>t</sup> the leest plucke of ony fysshe maye pull it downe in to y<sup>e</sup> water. And make your plumbis rounde and smothe y<sup>t</sup> they stycke not on stonys or on wedys. And for the more vnderstondynge lo theym here in fygure.\*

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\* In the original here follow rude diagrams representing the leads.

**T**HENNE shall ye make your flotys in this wyse. Take a fayr corke that is clene without many holes. and bore it thurgh wyth a smalle hote yren: And putt therin a penne luste and streyghte. Euer the more flote the gretter penne and greter hole. Then shape it grete in the myddis and small at bothe endys. and specyally sharpe in the nether ende, and lyke vnto the the figures folowyng. And make theym smothe on a gryndyng stone: or on a tyle stone. And loke that the flote for one heer be no more than a pese. For two heeres: as a beene for twelue heeres: as a walnot. And soo euery lyne after the proporcion. All manere lynes that be not for the grounde must have flotes. And the rennyng grounde lyne must haue a flote. The lyenge grounde lyne wythout flote.\*

**N**OW I haue lernyd you to make all your harnays. Here I woll tell you how ye shall angle. Ye shall angle: vnderstande that there is. vj. manere of anglyng. That one is at the grounde for the troughte and other fisshe. A nother is at y<sup>e</sup> grounde at an arche, or at a stange where it ebbyth and flowyth: for bleke: roche: and darse. The thyrde is wyth a flote for all

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\* In the original here follow rude diagrams representing the floats.

manere of fysshe. The fourth wyth a menow for y<sup>e</sup> troughte wythout plumbe or flote. The fyfth is rennyng in y<sup>e</sup> same wyse for roche and darse wyth one or two heeres and a flye. The syxte is wyth a dubbyd hoke for the troughte and graylyng. And for the fyrste and pryncypall poynt in anglynge: kepe y<sup>e</sup> euer fro the water fro the syghte of the fysshe: other wyse kneele on the londe: or ellys behynde a busshe that the fysshe se you not. For yf they doo they wol not byte. Also loke that ye shadow not the water as moche as ye may. For it is that thyng that woll soone fraye the fysshe. And yf a fysshe be afrayed he woll not bite longe after. For alle manere fysshe that fede by the grounde ye shall angle for theym to the botom. Soo that your hokys shall renne or lye on the grounde, And for alle other fysshe that fede aboue ye shall angle to theym in the myddes of the water or somdeale byneth or somdeale aboue. For euer the gretter fysshe ther nerer he lyeth the botom of the water. And euer the smaller fysshe the more he swymmyth aboue. The thyrde good poynt is whan the fysshe bytyth that ye be not to hasty to smyte nor to late, For ye must abide tyll ye suppose that the bayte be toke in the mouth of the fysshe, and thenne abyde noo longer. And this is for the grounde. And for the flote whan ye se it pullyd softly vnder the water: or elles caryed vpon the water softly:

thenne smyte. And loke that ye neuer ouersmyte the strengthe of your lyne for brekyng. And yf it fortune you to smyte a grete fysshe wyth a smalle harnays: thenne ye must lede hym in the water and labour hym there tyll he be drownyd and ouercome. Thenne take hym as well as ye can or maye. and euer bewaar that ye holde not ouer the strengthe of your lyne. And as moche as ye may lete hym not come out of your lynes ende streyghte from you: But kepe hym euer vader the rodde, and euermore holde hym streyghte: soo that your lyne may susteyne and beere his lepps and his plungys wyth the helpe of your croppe and of your honde.

**H**ERE I woll declare vnto you in what place of the water ye shall angle. Ye shall angle in a pole or in a standinge water in euery place where it is ony thyng depe. There is not grete choyse of ony places where it is ony thyng depe in a pole. For it is but a pryson to fysshe and they lyue for y<sup>e</sup> more parte in hungre lyke prisoners: and therfore it is the lesse maystry to take theym. But in a ryuer ye shall angle in euery place where it is depe and clere by the grounde: as grauell or claye wythout mudde or wedys. And in especyall yf that there be a manere whyrlyng of water or a couert. As an holow-banke: or grete rotys of trees: or longe wedes flotyng aboue in the

water where the fysshe may couere and hyde theymselſ at certayn tymes whan they lyst. Also it is good for to angle styffe stremys and also in fallys of waters and weares: and in floode gatys and mylle pyttes, And it is good for to angle where as the water restyth by the banke: and where the streme rennyth nyghe thereby: and is depe and clere by the grounde and mony other placys where ye may se any fyssh houe or haue ony fedynge.

**N**OW we shall wyte what tyme of the daye ye shall angle From the begynnyng of May vntyll it be Septembre the mornynge tyme is erly by the morowe from foure of y<sup>e</sup> clocke vnto eyghte of the clocke: And at after none from foure of the clock vnto eyghte of the clocke: but not soo good as in the mornynge. And yf it be a colde whys-telyng wynde and a derke lowryng daye. For a derke daye is moche better to angle in than a clere daye. From the begynnyng of Septembre vnto the ende of Apryll spare noo tyme of the daye:

Also many pole fysshes woll byte in the nonc-tyde.

And yf ye se ony tyme of the daye the trought or graylynge lepe: angle to hym wyth a dubbe acordynge to the same month. And where the water ebbyth and flowyth the fysshe woll byte in



some place at the ebbe: and in some place at the flood. After y<sup>t</sup> they haue restynge behynde stangnys and archys of brydgys and other suche maner places.

**H**ERE ye shall wyte in what weder ye shall angle. as I sayd before in a derke lowrynge daye whanne the wynde blowyth soffly. And in somer season whan it is brennynge hote it is nought. From Septembre vnto Apryll in a fayr sonny daye is ryght good to angle. And yf the wynde in that season haue ony parte of the Oryent: the wedyr thenne is nought. And whan it is a grete wynde. And whan it snowith reynyth or hayllyth, or is a grete tempeste, as thondyr or lightenynge: or a swoly hote weder: thenne it is noughte for to angle.

**N**OW shall ye wyte that there ben twelue manere of ympedymentes whyche cause a man to take noo fysshe. w<sup>t</sup> other corayn that maye casuelly happe. The fyrst is yf your harnays be not mete nor fetly made. The seconde is yf your baytes be not good nor fyne. The thyrde is yf that ye angle not in bytynge tyme. The fourth is yf that the fysshe be frayed w<sup>t</sup> the syghte of a man. The fyth yf the water be very thycke: whyte or redde of ony floode late fallen. The syxte yf the fysshe moue not for colde. The seuenth

yf that the wedyr be hote. The eyght yf it rayne. The nynthe yf it hayll or snow talle. The tenth is yf it be a tempeste. The eleuenth is yf it be a grete wynde. The twelfyth yf the wynde be in the East, and that is worste For comynly neyther wynter nor somer y<sup>e</sup> fische wolle not byte thenne. The weste and northe wyndes ben good but the south is beste.

And now I haue tolde you how to make your harnays: and how ye shall fische therwyth in al poyntes. Reason wolle that ye knowe wyth what baytes ye shall angle to euery manere of fyssh in euery moneth of the yere, whyche is all the effecte of the crafte. And wythout whyche baytes knowen well by you all your other crafte here to forme auayllyth you not to purpose. For ye can not brynge an hoke in to a fyssh mouth wythout a bayte. Which baytes for euery manere of fyssh and for euery moneth here folowyth in this wyse.

**F**OR by cause that the Samon is the moost stately fyssh that ony man maye angle to in fresshe water. Therfore I purpose to begynne at hym. The samon is a gentyll fyssh: but he is comborous for to take. For comynly he is best in depe places of grete ryuers: And for the more parte he holdyth the myddys of it: that a man maye not come at hym. And he is in season from Marche unto Myghelmas. In wyche season ye

shall angle to hym wyth thys baytes whan ye maye gete theym. Fyrste wyth a redde worme in the begynnyng and endyng of the season. And also wyth a bobbe that bredyth in a dunghyll. And specyally wyth a souerayn bayte that bredyth on a water docke. And he bytith not at the grounde: but at y<sup>e</sup> flote. Also ye may take hym but it is seldom seen with a dubbe at such tyme as whan he lepyth in lyke fourme and manere as ye doo take a trougte or a graylynge. And thys baytes ben well prouyd baytes for the samon.

**T**HE Troughte for by cause he is a right deyn-  
tous fyssh and also a ryght feruente-byter  
we shall speke nexte of hym. He is in season fro  
Marche vnto Myghelmas. He is on clene grauely  
grounde and in a streme. Ye may angle to hym  
all tymes wyth a grounde lyne lyenge or rennyng;  
sauyng in lepyng tyme. and thenne wyth a dubbe.  
And erly wyth a rennyng grounde lyne. and forth  
in the daye wyth a flote lyne.

Ye shall angle to hym in Marche wyth a menew  
hangyd on your hoke by the nether nesse wythout  
flote or plumbe: drawyng vp and downe in the  
streame tyll ye fele hym taste. In the same tyme  
angle to hym wyth a grounde lyne with a redde  
worme for the moost sure. In Aprill take the  
same baytes: and also Iuneba other wyse namyd.  
ii. eyes. Also the canker that bredyth in a grete

tree and the redde snayll. In May take y<sup>e</sup> stone flye and the bobbe vnder the cowe torde and the sylke worme: and the bayte that bredyth on a fernne leyf. In Iuyn take a redde worme and nyppe of the heed: and put on thyn hoke a codworme byform. In Iuyll take the grete redde worme and the codworme togyder. In August take a flesshe flye and the grete redde worme and the fatte of the bakon: and bynde abowte thy hoke. In Septembre take the redde worme and the menew. In Octobre take the same: for they ben specyall for the trougt all tymes of the yere. From Aprill tyll Septembre y<sup>e</sup> trougt lepyth. thenne angle to hym wyth a dubbyd hoke acordynge to the moneth, whyche dubbyd hokys ye shall fynde in thende of this treatyse: and the monethys wyth theym.\*

The grayllynge by a nother name callyd vmbre is a delycyous fysshe to mannys mouthe. And ye maye take hym lyke as ye doo the trougt. And thyse ben his baytes. In Marche and in Apryll the redde worme. In Maye the grene worme: a lytyll breyled worme: the docke canker and the hawthorn worme. In Iune the bayte that bredyth betwene the tree and the barke of an oke. In Iuyll a bayte that bredyth on a fernne leyf: and the

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\* This has reference to a rude sketch of hooks at the end of the original.

grete redde worme. And nyppe of the hede :  
and put on your hoke a cod worme before. In  
August the redde worme : and a docke worme.  
And al the yere after a redde worme.

**T**HE barbyll is a swete fysshe but it is a quasy  
meete and a peryllous for mannys body.  
For comynly he yeuyth an introduxion to y<sup>e</sup>  
Febres. And yf he be eten rawe : he maye be  
cause of mannys dethe : whyche hath oft be seen.  
Thyse be his baytes In Marche and in Apryll  
take fayr fresshe chese : and laye it on a borde  
and kytte it in small square pecys of the lengthe  
of your hoke. Take thenne a candyl and brenne  
it on the ende at the poynt of your hoke tyll it be  
yelow. And thenne bynde it on your hoke with  
fletchers sylke : and make it rough lyke a welbede.  
This bayte is good all the somer season. In May  
and Iune take y<sup>e</sup> hawthornne worme togyder. Also  
the water docke leyf worme and the hornet worme  
togyder. In Augusst and for all the yere take the  
talowe of a shepe and softe chese : of eche  
ylyke moche : and a lytyll hony and grynde or  
stampe theym togyder londe and tempre ittyll it be  
tough. And put therto floure a lytyll and make it  
on small pelletys. And y<sup>t</sup> is a good bayte to angle  
wyth at the grounde. And loke that it synke in  
the water. or ellys it is not good to this purpoos.

THE carpe is a deyntous fysshe: but there ben but fewe in Englonde. And therefore I wryte the lasse of hym. He is an euyll fysshe to take. For he is soo stronge enarmyd in the mouthe that there maye noo weke harnays holde hym. And as touchynge his baytes I haue but lytyll knowlege of it. And me were loth to wryte more than I knowe and heue prouyd. But well I wote that the redde worme and the menow ben good baytes for hym at all tymes as I haue herde saye of persones credyble and also founde wryten in bokes of credence.

THE cheuyn is a stately fysshe and his heed is a deynty morsell. There is noo fysshe soo strongly enarmyd wyth scalys on the body. And bi cause he is a stronge byter he hathe the more baytes, whiche ben thyse. In Marche the redde worme at the grounde: For comynly thenne he woll byte there at all tymes of y<sup>e</sup> yere yf he be ony thinge hungry. In Apryll the dyche canker that bredith in the tree. A worme that bredith betwene the rynde and the tree of an oke. The redde worme; and the yonge froghys whan the fete ben kyt of. Also the stone flye the bobbe vnder the cowe torde: the redde snaylle. In May ye bayte that bredyth on the osyer beddys and the docke canker togyder vpon your hoke. Also a bayte that bredyth on a fernne leyf: y<sup>e</sup> codworme

and a bayte that bredyth on an hawthornn. And a bayte that bredyth on an oke leyf and a sylke worme and a cod worme togyder. In Iune take the creket and the dorre and also a red worme: the heed kytte of and a codworme before: and put theym on y<sup>e</sup> hoke. Also a bayte in the osyer leyf yonge frogghys the thre-fete kitte of by the body: and the fourth by the knee. The bayte on the hawthornne and the cod worme togyder and a grubbe that bredyth in a dunghyll: and a grete greshop. In Iuyll the greshop and the humbylbee in the medow. Also yonge bees and yonge hornettes. Also a grete brended flye that bredyth in pathes of medowes and the flye that is amonge pysmeers hyllys. In August take wortwormes and magotes vnto Myghelmas. In Septembre the redde worme: and also take the bayte whan ye may gete theym: that is to wyte; Cherges: yonge myce not heeryd: and the honie combe.

The breeme is a noble fysshe and a deyntous. And ye shall angle for hym from Marche vnto August wyth a redde worme and thenne wyth a butter flye and a grene flye. and wyth a bayte that bredyth amonge grene rede: and a bayte that bredyth in the barke of a deed tree. And for bremettis: take maggotes. And fro that tyme forth all the yere after take the red worme: and in the ryuer browne breede. Moo baytes there ben but they ben not easy and therfore I lete theym passe over.

**A** TENCHE is a good fysshe : and heelith all manere of other fysshe that ben hurte yf they maye come to hym. He is the most parte of the year in the muddle. And he styryth moost in Iune and Iuly : and in other seasons but lytyll. He is an euyl byter. his baytes ben thyse. For all the yere browne breede tostyð wyth hony in lyknesse of a butterydloof : and the grete redde worme And as for cheyf take the black blood in y<sup>e</sup> herte of a shepe and floure and hony. And tempre theym all togyder somdeale softer than paast : and anoynt therwyth the redde worme : bothe for this fysshe and for other. And they woll byte moche the better therat at all tymes.

The perche is a daynteous fysshe and passynge holsom and a free bytyng. Thise ben his baytes. In Marche the redde worme. In Aprill the bobbe vnder the cowe torde. In May the slothornn worme and the codworme. In Iune the bayte that bredith in an olde fallen oke and the great canker In Iuyll the bayte that bredyth on the osyer leyf and the bobbe that bredyth on the dunghyll : and the hawthornn worme and the cod worme. In August the redde worme and maggotes. All the yere after the red worme as for the beste.

The roche is an easy fysshe to take. And yf he be fatte and pennyd thenne is he good meete, and thyse ben his baytes. In Marche the most redy bayte is the red worme. In Apryll the bobbe vnder



the cowe torde. In May the bayte y<sup>t</sup> bredyth on ye oke leyf and the bobbe in the dunghyll. In Iune the bayte that bredyth on the osyer and the cod worme. In Iuyll hous flyes. and the bayte that bredith on an oke. and the not worme and maggotes tyll Myghelmas. And after y<sup>t</sup> the fatte of bakon.

The dace is a genryll fysshe to take. and yf it he well reset thenne is it good meete. In Marche his bayte is a redde worme. In Apryll the bobbe vnder the cowe torde. In May the docke canker and the bayte on y<sup>e</sup> flothornn and on the oken leyf. In Iune the codworme and the bayte on the osyer and the whyte grubbe in y<sup>e</sup> dunghyll. In Iuyll take hous flyes and flyes that brede in pysmer hylles: the codworme and maggotes vnto Mighelmas. And yf the water be clere ye shall take fysshe whan other take none. And fro that time forth doo as ye do for the roche. For comynly theyr bytynge and their baytes ben lyke.

The bleke is but a feble fysshe. yet he is holsom. His baytes from Marche to Myghelmas be the same that I haue wryten before. For the roche and darse sauynge all the somer season asmoche as ye maye angle for hym wyth an house flye: and in wynter season w<sup>t</sup> bakon and other bayte made as ye hereafter may know.

The ruf is ryght an holsom fysshe: And ye shall angle to him wyth the same baytes in al seasons

of the yere and in the same wise as I haue tolde you of the perche: for they ben lyke in fysshe and fedinge, sauynge the ruf is lesse. And therfore he must haue y<sup>e</sup> smaller bayte.

The flounder is an holsom fisshe and a free. And a subtyll byter in his manere. For comynly whan he soukyth his meete he fedyth at grounde. and therfore ye must angle to hym wyth a grounde lyne lyenge. And he hath but one manere of bayte. and that is a red worme. whiche is moost cheyf for all manere of fysshe. The gogen is a good fisshe: and he byteth wel at the grounde: And his baytes for all the yere ben thyse. y<sup>e</sup> red worme: codworme: and maggotes. And ye must angle to him w<sup>t</sup> a flote. and lete your bayte be nere y<sup>e</sup> botom or ellis on y<sup>e</sup> grounde.

The menow whan he shynith in the water thenne is he bytyr. And though his body be lytyll yet he is a rauinous biter and an egre. And ye shall angle to hym wyth the same baytes that ye doo for the gogyn: sauynge they must be smalle.

The ele is a quasy fysshe a rauinous and deuourer of the brode of fysshe. And for the pyke also is a deuourer of fysshe I put them bothe behynde all other to angle. For this ele ye shall finde an hole in the grounde of the water, and it is blewe blackysshe there put in your hoke tyll that it be a fote wythin y<sup>e</sup> hole, and your bayte shall be a grete angyll twytch or a menow.

The pyke is a good fysshe: but for he deuouryth so many as well of his owne kynde as of other: I loue hym the lesse. and for to take hym ye shall doo thus. Take a codlynge hoke: and take a roche or a fresshe heering and a wyre wyth an hole in the ende: and put it in at the mouth and out at the taylle downe by the ridge of the fresshe heeryng. And then put the lyne of your hoke in after. and drawe the hoke into the cheke of y<sup>e</sup> fresshe heeryng. Thenne put a plumbe of lede upon your lyne a yerde longe from youre hoke and a flote in mydwaye betwene: and caste it in a pyrte where the pyke vsyth. And this is the beste and moost surest crafte of takynge the pyke. A nother manere takynge of hym there is. Take a frogghe and put it on your hoke at the necke bytwene the skynne and the body on y<sup>e</sup> backe half: and put on a flote a yerde therfro: and caste it where the pyke hauntyth and ye shall haue hym. Another manere. Take the same bayte and put it in Asafetida and cast it in the water with a corde and a corke: and ye shall not fayll of hym. And yf ye lyst to haue a good sporte: thenne tye the corde to a gosse fote: and ye shall se god halyng whether the gosse or the pyke shall haue the better.

NOW ye wote with what baytes and how ye shall angle to euery manere fysshe. Now I woll tell you how ye shall kepe and fede you quycke baytes. Ye shall fede and kepe them all in generall: but euery manere by hymselfe wyth suche thyng, in and on whiche they brede. And as longe as they ben quycke and newe they ben fyne. But whan they ben in a slough or elles deed then ben they nought. Oute of thyse ben excepted thre brodes: That is to wyte of hornettys: humbylbees, and waspys, whom ye shall bake in breede and after dyppe theyr heedes in blode and lete theym drye. Also excepte maggotes: whyche whan thei ben bredde grete wyth theyr naturell fedynge: ye shall fede theym ferthermore wyth shepes talow and wyth a cake made of floure and hony, thenne woll they be more grete. And whan ye haue clensyd theym wyth sonde in a bagge of blanket kepte hote vnder your gowne or other warmm thyng two hours or thre, thenne ben they beste and redy to angle wyth. And of the frogghe kytte ye legge by the knee, of the grasshop the leggs and wynges by the body.

Thyse ben baytes made to last all the yere. Fyrste been floure and lene flesshe of the hepis of a cony or of a catte: virgyn wexe and shepys talowe: and braye theym in a morter: And thenne tempre it at the fyre wyth a lytyll purifyed hony: and soo make it vp in lytyll ballys and bayte ther-

wyth your hokys after theyr quantyte. and this is a good bayte for all maner fresshe fysshe.

A nother: take the sewer of a shepe and chese in lyke quantyte: aud braye them togider longe in a mortere. And take thenne floure and tempre it therwyth. and after that alaye it wyth hony and make ballys therof. and that is for the barbyll in especyall.

A nother for darse and roche, and bleke. take whete and sethe it well and thenne put it in blood all a daye and a nyghte. and it is a good bayte.

For baytes for grete fyssh kepe specyally this rule. Whan ye haue take a grete fysshe: vndo the mawe. and what ye fynde therin make that your bayte: for it is beste.

Thyse ben the xii. flyes with whyche ye shall angle to y<sup>e</sup> trought and grayllyng and dubbe lyke as ye shall now here me tell.

### **Marche.**

**T**HE donne flye the body of the donne woll and the wyngis of the pertryche. A nother doone flye: the body of blacke woll: the wynges of the blackest drake: and the Iay vnder the wyng and vnder the tayle.

### **Apryll.**

The stone flye. the bodye of blacke wull: and yelowe vnder the wyng. and vnder the tayle and

the wynges of the drake. In the begynnynge of May a good flye. the body of roddy wull and lappid abowte wyth blacke sylke: the wynges of the drake and of the redde capons hakyll.

### May.

The yelow flye. the body of yelow wull: the wynges of the redde cocke hakyll and of the drake lyttyd below. The blacke louver. the body of blacke wull and lappyd abowte wyth the herle of y<sup>e</sup> pecok tayle: and the wynges of y<sup>e</sup> redde capon wt a blewe heed.

### June.

The donne cutte: the body of blacke wull and a yelow lyste after eyther syde: the wynges of the bosarde bounde on with barkyd hempe. The maure flye. the body of dolke wull the wynges of the blackest mayle of the wylde drake. The taudy flye at saynt Wylliams daye. the body of taudy wull and the wynges contrary eyther ayenst other of the whitest mayle of y<sup>e</sup> wylde drake.

### July.

The waspe flye. the body of blacke wull and lappid abowte wt yelow threde: the winges of the bosarde. The shell flye at saynt Thomas daye. the body of grene wull and lappyd abowte wyth the herle of the pecoks tayle: wynges of the bosarde.

### August.

The drake flye. the body of blacke wull and lappid abowte wyth blacke sylke: wynges of the mayle of the blacke drake wyth a blacke heed.

Thyse fygures are put in here in ensample of your hokes.\*

Here folowyth the order made to all those whiche shall haue the vnderstondynge of this forsayde treatyse and vse it for theyr pleasures.

**Y**E that can angle and take fysshe to your pleasures as this forsayd treatyse techyth and shewyth you: I charge and requyre you in the name of alle noble men that ye fysshe not in noo poore mannys seuerall water; as his ponde: stewe: or other necessary thynges to kepe fysshe in wythout his lycence and good wyll. Nor that ye vse not to breke noo mannys gynnys lyenge in theyr weares and in other places due vnto thym. Ne to take the fysshe awaye that is taken in theym. For after a fysshe is taken in a mannys gynne yf the gynne be layed in the comyn waters: or elles in suche waters as he hireth, it is his owne propre goodes. And yf ye take it awaye ye robbe

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\* In the original here follow rude diagrams representing the above hooks.

hym: wyche is a ryght shamfull dede to ony noble man to do and that theuys and brybours done: whyche are punysshed for theyr euyll dedes by the necke and otherwyse whan they maye be aspyed and taken. And also yf ye doo in lyke manere as this treatise shewyth you: ye shal haue no nede to take of other mennys: whiles ye shal haue ynough of your owne takyng yf ye lyst to labour therfore. whych shall be to you a uery pleasure to see the fayr bryght shynyng scalyd fysshes dysceyued by your crafty meanes and drawn vpon londe. Also that ye breke noo mannys heggys in goynge abowte your dysportes: ne opyn noo mannes gates but that ye shytt theym agayn. Also ye shall not vse this forsayd crafty dysporte for no couetysenes to thencreasyng and sparyng of your money oonly. but pryncypally for your solace and to cause the helthe of your body, and specyally of your soule. For whanne ye purpoos to goo on your disportes in fysshying ye woll not desyre gretly many persones wyth you. whiche myghte lette you of your game. And thenne ye maye serue god deuowtly in sayenge affectuously youre custumable prayer. And thus doynge ye shall eschewe and voyde many vices. as ydynes whyche is pryncypall cause in enduce man to many other vyces as it is ryght well knowen. Also ye shall not be to rauenous in takyng of your sayd



game as to moche at one tyme. which ye maye lyghtly doo yf ye doo in euery poynt as this present treaty shewyth you in euery poynt. whiche sholde lyghtly be occasyon to dystroye your owne dysportes and other mannys also. As whan ye haue a suficyent mete ye sholde coueyte no more as at that tyme. Also ye shall besye yourselfe to nourryssh the game in all that ye may: and to dysporte all suche thynges as ben deuourers of it. And all those that done after this rule shall haue the blessynge of god and saynt Peter, whyche he theym graunte that wyth his precyous blood vs boughte.

And for by cause that this present treatyse sholde not come to the hondys of eche persone whyche wolde desire it yf it were empyrtyd allone by itself and put in a lytyll plaunflet therfore I\* haue compyled it in a greter volume of dyuerse bokys concernynge to gentyll and noble men to the entent that the forsayd persones whyche sholde haue but lytyll mesure in the sayd dysporte of fyshyng sholde not by this meane vtterly dystroye it.

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\* These words are Wynkyn de Worde's, on adding the Treatyse of Fysshynge to the second edition of the Boke of St. Albans.







